Dear Bruce, 5/22/76

I respond because I'm certain of your sincerity.

Unless you begin with a preconception you would like to breathe life into, you waste your own time. Except that I knew a couple of those people casually, you also wasted mine. As you know now, I can't take time for these kinds of things.

I take it you meant that Oswald the red called on Abt the red for some special reason. If so it did no good. Abt immediately refused. Only the cops didn't tell Oswald.

I worked for the same committee Abt and Kramer did. I knew Abt only slightly, as a quiet man and respected legal craftsman. We did not get along particularly well in the few contacts we had. I knew Kramer possible a little better because he was an investigator and he more often had need to consult my knowledge of the record. I was not in the social circle of either.

I did not know either had testified before Nixon and the UnAmericans. I was not in Washington then. I also met Lowenthal and Wheeler a few times. Lowenthal's book on the FBI was a fine one. If he had been heeded the country would have suffered less.

Abt's statement, by the way, if basic Americanism and his opinion of our country's military adventures has been substantiated by the subsequent history.

I neither knew, had reason to believe nor ever asked the politics of any of them. I was not that close to any. I do not know whether any was a Communist. I never saw any such indication. But I am sure they could have been.

However, if any of tgis could have figured in Oswald's asking Abt to be his lawyer, you have sent no explanation. I'd be more inclined to believe that what Abt did later would be more likely. He represented the Communist Party, as I remember the stories of the day, up to the Supreme Court in a Smith Act case. That Act, you may recall, was ruled Unconstitutional.

I regard all of this as without factual base. The theories one could defend are too numerous to go into and too contradictory. I knew of Abt's representation of the Communist Party, so the rest is without significance to me. I tell you again I can't keep taking time for this kind of thing.

I don't know what you mean by what Fensterwald is up to. He doesngt tell me and I don't know. I have no reason to believe he is a spook.

I thought through all the questions you asked and many you did not 12 years ago.

Sincerely,